

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
26 February 2004 (26.02.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/016181 A2**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **A61B 17/064**,  
17/32

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/EP2003/008821

(22) International Filing Date: 8 August 2003 (08.08.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
MI2002A001817 9 August 2002 (09.08.2002) IT

(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, IJ, MC, NI, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(71) Applicants and

(72) Inventors: **PURICELLI, Cesare** [IT/IT]; Via dei Platani, 36, I-33034 Fagagna (IT). **PONTE, Gianni** [IT/IT]; Viale Duodo, 74/4, I-33100 Udine (IT).

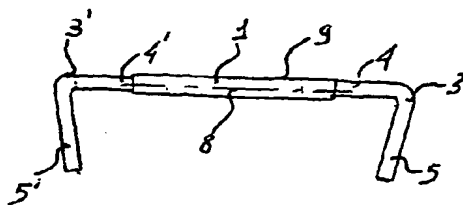
(74) Agent: **GERVASI, Gemma**; Notarbartolo & Gervasi S.p.A., Corso di Porta Vittoria, 9, I-20122 Milan (IT).

Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: STAPLE FOR THE SUTURE OF THE STERNUM



(57) **Abstract:** A staple for the suture of the sternum having a central body with right and left threaded ends in which two teeth are screwed able to be introduced into suitable holes made astride a median sternotomy performed on a patient. Rotating the central body draws the teeth together or apart, thus tightening the two halves of the sternum with appropriate tension. The staple is suitable to be tightened by means of an apparatus provided with friction, to give the correct tightening tension. Also described are a method for the suture of the sternum and punch cutter forceps suitable to be used in such operation.